

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following new paragraphs after the paragraph ending at page 3, line 30 of the present specification (the brief description of FIG. 5):

FIG. 5A is a cross-sectional view of the slider shown in FIG. 5 taken along cross-sectional indicators 5A-5A.

FIG. 5B is a cross-sectional view of the slider shown in FIG. 5 taken along cross-sectional indicators 5B-5B.

FIG. 5C is an end view of the slider shown in FIG. 5.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 5 represents a presently preferred embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 5 illustrates an advanced air bearing slider 513 that includes a first air bearing surface 210, a second air bearing surface 220 and a center portion 230. Preferably, the center portion 230 includes a transducer. A third air bearing surface 240 bridges between the first and second air bearing surfaces 210, 220, respectively. Each of the first air bearing surface 210, second air bearing surface 220, center portion 230 and third air bearing surface 240 are elevated or otherwise stand above the recessed area 205 (see FIGS. 5A-5C).